

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are presently active, Claims 1, 4, and 6 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Walker et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,199,014) in view of Ohki et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,199,014) and further in view of Fukushima et al (U.S. Pat. No. 4,807,157). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al in view of Ohki et al, in view of Fukushima et al, and further in view of Bradshaw et al (U.S. Pat. No.5,528,518). Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al in view of Fukushima et al.

Firstly, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy of Examiner Wu and Supervisory Patent Examiner Christensen to conduct an interview for this case on May 20, 2004. During the interview, Applicants' representative discussed the present invention and the applied prior art. In particular, Applicants' Figures 6 and 7 were discussed in light of Figure 4 of Walker et al and Figure 3 of Ohki et al. Clarifications to Claim 1 were discussed during the interview, those clarifications being substantially the same as now presently filed. As noted on the Interview Summary Sheet, such changes would appear to define over the prior art.

Given the understanding reached during the interview that these changes would overcome the prior art, Applicants' respectfully submit that Claim 1 and for similar reasons

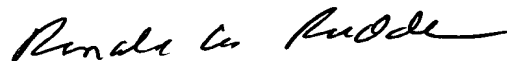
Application No.09/358,520  
Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2004

independent Claims 4 and 6, and the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to patentably define over the applied prior art.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 40,073  
Ronald A. Rudder, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 45,618

Customer Number  
22850

(703) 413-3000  
Fax No.: (703)413-2220  
BDL:RAR:clh  
I:\atty\RAR\amendments\203656us\am3.wpd